



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

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### **Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round 2** Review Process Outline

Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)

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## Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)

### I. General

- A. Timeline**
  - 1. Applications available Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM (ET)
  - 2. Applications due March 15<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM (ET)
- B. Submission**
  - 1. Online-only submission at <http://www.broadbandusa.gov/>
- C. Funding ranges per project award for PCC**
  - 1. \$500,000 - \$15 million
- D. Announcement of awards**
  - 1. Rolling basis starting June 2010
  - 2. All will be awarded by Sept. 30, 2010

### II. Application review process

- A. Screened for initial eligibility according to the following statutory requirements<sup>1</sup>**
  - 1. Access for unserved
  - 2. Access for underserved
  - 3. Educates public about benefits of broadband
  - 4. Increases speed, access, and/or use of broadband by public safety agencies
  - 5. Increases demand for broadband among general public
  - ❖ ALL PROJECTS MUST ADDRESS ONE OR MORE REQUIREMENTS
- B. Applications will be evaluated by objective reviewers in order of priority according to the following criteria<sup>2</sup>**
  - 1. General notes
    - a) After all reviews are complete, the scores will be averaged, and a percentile will be established above which projects will be considered “highly qualified”

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<sup>1</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.A. pg. 10-11

<sup>2</sup> See NOFA Sec. VII.A.3. pg. 66-70

(1) Highly qualified applications will be considered for further awards by NTIA program staff

(2) Highly qualified applications will be given a due diligence review

(a) Priority for due diligence will be given to applications that best conform to funding priorities

2. Reviewer Criteria (to be scored out of 100 total points)

a) Project Purpose (20 points)

(1) Fit with statutory purposes

(2) Potential for job creation

(3) Collaboration with Recovery Act or other state and federal programs

(4) Additional consideration for socially or economically disadvantaged small businesses or Indian tribes

b) Project Benefits (20 points)

(1) Number of new subscribers

(a) Scored based on number of new subscribers expected to be generated

(2) Cost per new user

(a) Keep it low

(3) Innovation

(a) Do new things that get the public's attention and that can be replicated elsewhere

(4) Support for vulnerable populations

(a) Should be a main focus of the project

c) Project Viability (30 points)

(1) Operational feasibility of the proposed project

(2) Applicant's organizational capability

(a) Expertise of management team

(b) Past track record of organization with similar projects

(3) Level of community involvement in project

d) Project Budget and Sustainability (30 points)

(1) Reasonableness of the budget

(a) The lower the costs per household or per subscriber, the better

(2) Sustainability of the project

(3) Leverage of outside resources

(a) Non-federal funds

(b) Extra consideration for over 30% non-federal funds

(c) Cash funding is best, as opposed to loans or in-kind contributions

**C. State government consultation<sup>3</sup>**

1. NTIA will ask each state via its Governor which areas are unserved and underserved

2. Governor can promote certain projects or areas as being critical/important

a) But influence is limited to consultative role

3. States have 20 calendar days to submit comments to NTIA after being asked for their consultation

4. NTIA will make comments of states and tribes publicly available online

**D. Due diligence performed on select project applications<sup>4</sup>**

1. Applicants may be asked to submit additional information

2. Applicants may be asked to clarify or further substantiate claims made in their applications

3. Important to respond to requests in a timely fashion

4. May discuss with applicant specific modifications to application

a) Potential to still fund, but with reduced federal funding share

b) May only fund part of a proposal

5. Important that applicants demonstrate that their project would not have been implemented right away were it not for federal funding from the Recovery Act

6. Not all applicants who go through due diligence will be awarded funds

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<sup>3</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.C.3, pg. 19-20

<sup>4</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.C.4, pg. 20-21

7. At the end of due diligence, NTIA staff will complete a summary of their analysis for each project reviewed

**E. Final step: BTOP Director submits project recommendations to Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications (OTIA) Associate Administrator<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup> See NOFA Sec. II.C.5. pg. 21-23